

# THE CHRONICLE

D. F. WRIGHT, M. D., Editor.

TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE.

CLARKSVILLE: AUG. 26, 1876.

## NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TICKET

FOR PRESIDENT.

**SAMUEL J. TILDEN,**

OF New York.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

**THOS. A. HENDRICKS,**

OF Indiana.

ELECTORS.

For the State at Large,

E. A. JAMES, of Hamilton.

WM. B. BATE, of Davidson.

## DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

FOR GOVERNOR.

**JAMES D. PORTER.**

FOR CONGRESS.

**JOHN F. HOUSE,**

OF Montgomery County.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE.

**CHARLES G. SMITH.**

FOR FLOATES.

**COL. N. BRANDON,**

OF Stewart County.

FOR STATE SENATOR.

**A. B. GARNER.**

OF Robertson County.

**KASSON AND HEWITT.**

The dying hours of the session of Congress just closed were enlivened by a highly exciting contest, which, as the subject matter of it will probably enter into the controversies of the now imminent Presidential Campaign, we propose to narrate in some detail.

Mr. Kasson of Iowa is a member of the House who has done useful service to the Radical party in the way of dirty work. If an inexperienced Democrat has to be badgered and deceived out of what he has to get by irrelevant questions and interpolations—if a weak point of Radical policy has to be covered over with garbled statements and flimsy sophistry or if as now a powerful antagonist has to be blackened with dirt thrown from the political sewers, Mr. Kasson was the man to do it. In this department he waited till the end of the session for his great opportunity; with a man of his calibre it was a double advantage if he could take advantage of the twenty minutes left for debate so as to cover his antagonist with slander to which no reply could be made.

The subject before the house was the proposed increase of cavalry for the Sioux war.

Mr. Kasson got the floor and charged the Democratic party with persistent opposition to the Federal government when at war with its enemies, and this was his point of departure—nothing more was heard of the Sioux or the cavalry, but the Speaker suddenly made a record for Mr. Tilden as the constant and implacable foe of the Union.

Then came a torrent of the scandals that began to flood the press in New York from the time that Mr. Tilden's name was used in connection with the proposed convention at St. Louis as a probable candidate for President. He had expressed disunion sentiment before the war. He had signed the treasonous Tammany letter of 1862. He had refused to subscribe out of his great fortune to any of the expenses of the war. He had grown rich by setting on their feet rotten railroad companies. He had been the friend of Tweed and his accomplice in robbery &c. &c. Slanders which had most of them been already refuted but which, it was hoped, would gain some respectability by being repeated in Congress.

It was still more fondly hoped that Congress was to act only till 12 o'clock the next day, and unfinished business kept thronging the halls of Congress, no opportunity for an answer could possibly be given.

Here is where they missed it; if the matter could be delayed till the next morning session it was known that the irresponsible body would occupy the house till its final adjournment and no reply could be made.

A night of filibustering was the result. During the evening various reports from the Senate and other business kept coming in and in the intervals the skirmishing went on. A new New York member had retained the right to the floor, but all use of that right was nullified by motions of adjournment motions to suspend the rules &c., during all this occurred the following dialogue. Mr. Cox in possession of the house:

Mr. Hoar.—Before the gentleman proceeds, will he allow me to ask—

Mr. Cox.—Not now. All I desire is one minute to call the attention of the house to a statement made by the defender of Belknap in this house, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Kasson).

Mr. Hoar.—Will the gentleman, before he proceeds allow me to ask a question of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Randall) about the public business.

Mr. Cox.—Not now. The gentleman from Iowa repeated apocryphal statement—

Mr. Kasson.—If the gentleman does not withdraw that statement—

Mr. Cox.—I have the floor.

The Speaker pro tem.—The chair protected the gentleman from Iowa and will now protect the gentleman New York.

Mr. Cox.—The apologist of the post traders made a statement here.

Mr. Kasson.—I call the gentleman to order, his statement is untrue.

Mr. Cox.—I did not say it was.

The Speaker pro tem.—What is the point of order by the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. Kasson.—That the gentleman has no right to state an untruth on this floor against any member.

Mr. Cox.—Call the gentleman to order for he lied deliberately about manlike behavior respecting financial subjects. He was four times re-elected before retiring, which he did in 1871, but accepted a nomination the next year for representative, of the

hand uplifted and grasping—well nothing worse than a piece of paper, the purport of which will be stated presently. After a while the chairman got the house quiet and it was moved that Mr. Cox's words should be taken down and they were taken down and read by the clerk and did not sound any better than they did at first.

And one moved that any one using such language should be expelled, and then a count of the house was moved to see if there was a quorum, and there wasn't; and all this took up time, and that was what the Radicals wanted, for they were afraid that time might yet be found for some one to answer Kasson and prove that he told a well what Cox said he told Cox should not have called it by that name, and that was what the Radicals wanted, for they knew that, whatever they might call it, what Kasson said was not so; and still they tried to get their man in and still the Radicals tried to wear out the time and men's patience, and the doorkeepers looked dismal and the pages curled themselves up on tables and benches and went fast asleep and somebody moved that the sergeant at arms should go out and arrest members enough to make a house and some raised a doubt whether a body which was not a quorum and Mr. Holman showed that by the rules any 15 members could compel others to come in and make a quorum, could pass such a motion, and it was disputed and not settled; and in short it was a night of filibustering till broad daylight of which no mortal man could tell the proceedings or ought to tell. At last about 6 o'clock in the morning Mr. Cox, we know not how, got length a hearing and this is what he said:

Mr. Speaker, I was interrupted while speaking last evening as the house is aware, by a point of order, which perhaps was well taken, owing to the use of language which is not regarded as parliamentary, it was used under peculiar provocation as the House saw, and for its use I have to make an apology to the House and to recall the language as unparliamentary.

And then an explanation had to be made about the piece of paper which had been so belittled and handled, and which turned out to be a denial published 8 years ago on behalf of Mr. Tilden that a certain "secret circular" issued in his name and made capital of by Mr. Kasson, had ever been issued by his authority. And then Mr. Cox, being (it is said) in possession of the house announced his intention of giving the rest of his time to Mr. Hewitt of New York.

Mr. Hewitt then arose, had to give way however for some counter explanations of Mr. Kasson's statement, and then he made the main peace-maker. Then commenced Mr. Hewitt's vindication of Tilden—he is an experienced speaker and the Radicals in the House let loose on him their whole artillery of questions invidious and contradictions, hoping still to confuse him and prevent his making the reply. He meant business however and was not to be impeded. And he did make a most business manner replying minutely to every charge, not only showing that they were false but had long been known to be false, and having completed that work, took Mr. Kasson himself in hand and administered a castigation to him which even that not very thin skinned party hack must have felt a little.

The whole thing of course as a Radical trick was a dismal failure, and it will long be recognized as a fitting retribution to their last struggle against overbearing Radical indignation and disgust, that the Radicals in the House should get up a tissue of the dirtiest of scandals against Tilden which the slums New York have been teeming with, then filibuster the whole night to prevent a reply, and then receive a conflagrant and cruel castigation from a plain business man which will turn the attempted attack on Mr. Tilden into a first class campaign document in his favor.

GOV. HARRIS.

It was with mingled feelings of regret and pride that we read the letter of Gov. Harris on another page; pride that we have a public man among us capable of sacrificing the highest aspirations of his ambition to the public good, and regret that he should have thought it necessary to make the sacrifice.

We still think that he and those in whose judgment he acted, over-estimated the obstacle which his previous record might have presented to his usefulness as an elector. We think there are mainly objections of politicians rather than of the people who have forgotten little hard burnings of that sort—but the misgivings which dictated his first proposal to withdraw have evidently now gained the mastery over him, and we can only repeat our sense of the loss we have sustained in missing the influence of his splendid talents and his ready administration excited by his pure and noble conduct.

THE DEATH OF SPEAKER KERR.

We have to record the death on Sunday last of one of the best and purest political leaders in the present Congress. Michael C. Kerr of Indiana was born in Pennsylvania March 15th 1827, the son of respectable parents in moderate circumstances but graduated at Erie Academy at the age of eighteen, immediately after which he married Miss Coover and immediately after that moved West, and studied law in the University of Louisville where he graduated as bachelor of laws in 1851. He commenced the practice of law in New Albany Indiana in partnership with Judge Thomas L. Smith in 1852 and soon attained a high reputation in the practice of his profession. In 1852 he was elected representative to the Supreme court of Indiana in which capacity he contributed five volumes of valuable reports to the literature of his profession.

He was first elected to Congress in 1864, in his canvass for which position he soon showed himself as able on the stump as at the bar, and as Representative in Congress from the 2nd Congressional district of Indiana, he became known as an able and Statesmanlike debater especially on financial subjects. He was four times re-elected before retiring, which he did in 1871, but accepted a nomination the next year for representative, of the

State at large, in this canvass he was defeated by Mr. Orth.

In 1874 he was with great difficulty persuaded by the leading political men of his State to become once more a candidate in his own 2nd district; he was tired of the animosity of party strife and of the impaired physical power. The canvass was a very exciting one and far too onerous for his impaired powers, and when elected by a small majority he entered upon his duties with powers greatly prostrated. It is well known that he was elected Speaker of the house, and that he was not able to exercise the duties of that office long after the opening of the house.

He soon retired to the Rockbridge Alam Springs where he for a while seemed benefited by the waters—but soon showed manifestly that he was sinking. He sank slowly bearing his great sufferings with wonderful fortitude and retaining his mental faculties clear to the end.

His disease is reported as consumption of the bowels or phthisis intestinalis a disease which we are not acquainted, under that name; from some account of the symptoms we imagine that it was the same as the well known tubercular disease of the older nomenclature.

Mr. S. S. Cox and other members of Congress were in attendance on him as well as members of his own family and his body is now in charge of the family who will convey it to Washington where it will rest previously to burial in the Speakers hall of the House of Representatives.

Nothing more demoralising in politics can be imagined than great crowds of men in large cities holding office, and having nothing to do. Among this class is always found the ready agents of all the nefarious transactions in party tactics, for which a corrupt party, when in power, has constant occasion. The following, which we clip from the New York World, will give some idea of the degree in which this class of office holding sinners has been accumulated in all departments of public administration, but especially in the Treasury, but not at all interested in the relative degrees of responsibility between different Secretaries, under whose administration all this has grown up, but here is the astounding fact that nearly 600 clerks have been found in the Treasury department who had nothing to do except in the odd-job department:

There is a volume of eulogy of the Democratic House and its members, a flood of light upon the true relations between Conkling and Bristow, on the one hand, and between Conkling and Hayes on the other, and the following report of the remarks of the New York Senator on "reform" in the Treasury:

In answer to the questions of Mr. Conkling, Mr. Windom said the committee had virtually agreed upon a reduction of force in the departments to the extent of 755 employees. This reduction chiefly fell upon the Treasury Department, where the number to be dismissed was 491.

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